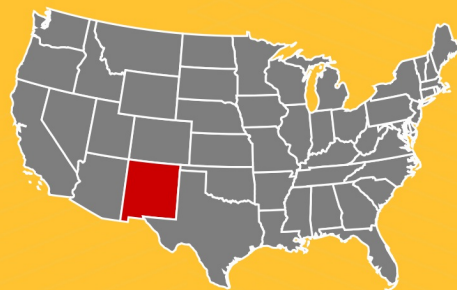




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NEW MEXICO'S NAVAL HISTORY



SHIPS



USS New Mexico (SSN 779)

New Mexico returns to Newport News, Va., after completing her first round of sea trials, November 26, 2009. Note that the attack boat also proudly displays the flag of her namesake state.



At least 31 ships have been named after the state of New Mexico, its cities, places, and people. A few of those include:

USS Acoma (SP 1228), 1917
 USS Alamogordo (ARDM 2), 1944
 USS Albuquerque (PF 7), 1943
 USS Albuquerque (SSN 706), 1983
 Apache I (Tug), 1898
 USS Bernalillo County (LST 306), 1942
 USS Bullhead (SS 332), 1944
 USS Caliente (AO 53), 1943
 USS Catron (APA 71), 1944
 USS Cimarron (AO 22), 1939
 USS Cimarron (AO 177), 1981
 USS Eddy County (LST 759), 1944
 USS Gallup (PF 47), 1944
 USS Gila River (LSMR 504), 1945
 USS Hidalgo (AK 189), 1945
 USS Jicarilla (ATF 104), 1944

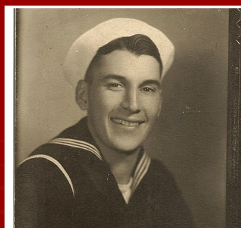
USS Los Alamos (AFDB 7), 1945
 USS Navajo (AT 64), 1940
 USS New Mexico (BB 40), 1918
 USS New Mexico (SSN 779), 2010
 USNS Pecos (T-AO 197), 1982
 USS Rio Grande (AOG 3), 1943
 USS Sandoval (APA 194), 1944
 USS Santa Fe (CL 60), 1942
 USS Santa Fe (SSN 763), 1994
 USS Torrance (AKA 76), 1944
 USS Tucumcari (PGH 2), 1968
 USS Tularosa (AOG 43), 1945
 USS Valencia (AKA 81), 1945
 USS White Sands (ARD 20), 1944
 USS Zuni (ATF 95), 1943

PEOPLE



Navajo Code Talkers

During World War II, Navajo code talkers, many of whom resided in northwestern New Mexico, took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. In 1942, there were about 50,000 Navajo tribe members. As of 1945, about 540 Navajos served as Marines, 375 to 420 of whom trained as code talkers. Navajo remained valuable as code even after the war. For that reason, the code talkers, whose skill and courage saved both American lives and military engagements, only recently earned recognition from the U.S. government and the public.



Max M. Archibque Navy Cross Recipient

A native of New Mexico, Signalman First Class Max M. Archibque received the Navy Cross for his extraordinary heroism while serving on board USS San Francisco (CA 38) in the action against Japanese naval forces in the Solomon Islands in November 1942. After an enemy plane crashed into the aft machine gun platform and started a large fire, Archibque, with utter disregard for his own personal safety, ably assisted in leading a hose to the top of turret III. Although this turret was firing, he effectively fought the fire while facing the terrific blast.



William H. Payne USN Retired; State Senator

William H. Payne was raised in Albuquerque, N.M. A graduate of the University of New Mexico, he entered the Navy in 1975. He was the first career reserve Navy SEAL to be promoted to rear admiral and served in the Navy for nearly 35 years of combined active and reserve service before retiring in October 2009. Payne continued to serve his country and state when, in 1996, he was elected to the Senate. One of his many Senate duties include overseeing veteran and military affairs.

PLACES



Did You Know...?

The father of modern rocketry, scientist Robert Goddard, came to New Mexico in 1930 to test rocket-ship models. From those humble beginnings the aerospace industry became one of New Mexico's leading industries.



NOSC Albuquerque

The Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Albuquerque is part of the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. The center serves 12 Navy Reserve units, 11 Army Reserve units and two Marine Corps Reserve units, totaling more than 1,000 reservists. This is the one center in the state for Navy reservists.



USS Desert Ship

In the desert of White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, is a Navy "vessel" that never leaves port. It is the Naval Surface Warfare Center Port Hueneme Division, White Sands Detachment, Desert Ship that performs live-fire test and evaluation of Navy weapons, encompassing missiles, guided munitions, and high-energy laser technologies.